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## Making the right monitor choice

Although the right calibration system can help you get the best out of your monitor, it can't improve the display quality or increase the colour gamut. If colour accuracy is critical to your work, then so is a good quality monitor.



When choosing which monitor is right for you, these are some of the important considerations to bear in mind:

### Star Rating ★

At Color Confidence we grade the monitors we list in order of quality, achievable colour accuracy and suitability for graphics and photography. Monitors are graded from 2★ to 5★ plus. Those rated both 2★ and 3★ are quality monitors and can be calibrated to a good level of colour accuracy. However, if it's a monitor for professional use that you require we recommend the 4★ to 5★ range.

### Monitor Size

The size of a monitor is defined as the diagonal measurement of the display panel in inches. In comparison to old CRT panel sizes, which included a significant unusable area around the edge of the panel, proportionally more working space is available on same size LCD flat panels.

### Native Resolution and Pixel Pitch

The native resolution is defined by the number of pixels across and down the screen when using the monitor's optimum/native settings. The Pixel Pitch is the size of pixel that makes up the monitor's native resolution. The finer/smaller the Pixel Pitch, the sharper the image will look, but menus will look smaller. Some 22", 24" and 26" panels share the same native resolution, meaning that you can display the same area of an image on all panels, the image just looks bigger on the 26" and smaller/sharper on the 22" and 24".

### Hoods

Supplied as standard with many quality monitors, a hood – a removable side and top surround – is designed to shield a monitor from unwanted light or reflections, meaning there is less chance of lighting conditions affecting your on-screen colour.

## Uniformity

Monitors featuring uniformity are 'factory balanced' to avoid variations in contrast or colour cast across the panel, resulting in a more accurate display.

## Brightness/Luminance

Contrary to popular belief, brighter is not better for colour critical work; 80–100 cd/m<sup>2</sup> is considered optimum, whilst many monitors have an achievable luminance level of 250 or 500 cd/m<sup>2</sup>. Therefore brightness should typically be set to a fraction of the monitor's ability.

## Contrast Ratio

A higher contrast ratio improves clarity of images. The effect of contrast ratio is directly linked to a monitor's luminance; the luminance divided by the contrast ratio calculates a display's blackpoint. As a rule, a blackpoint of 0.5 or below is optimum – above 0.5 and images start to appear flatter and less defined. For colour accurate on-screen proofing, as with the brightness abilities of a monitor, contrast ratios of monitors are generally all far in excess of the contrast ratio of black ink on paper in optimised viewing conditions.

## Digital/Analogue Connections

Most monitors come with both types of cable and connections. Digital is generally better for optimum display performance; however, a properly calibrated monitor, using either digital or analogue connections, is the most important thing.

## OSD Hardware Control

On-screen display hardware control refers to colour settings that require manual adjustment. When used in conjunction with a third party monitor calibration instrument and software, these controls can provide accurate results.

## Monitor Calibration

A correctly calibrated monitor is crucial for anyone for whom accurate colour is essential. There are a range of devices that now make this process quick, easy and affordable.

## IPS and sPVA Panel Types

IPS is considered the superior/higher quality panel type. The most apparent difference when comparing IPS to sPVA and VA is the contrast shift within the viewing angle of sPVA and VA panels. This is not considered a critical issue with many users on a one-to-one basis, although it can be annoying when looking down on a monitor and slightly noticeable at the extremities of a 24"–30" monitor. Similarly, in a work environment it can be problematic when reviewing an image with a client or colleague.

For a full overview and further technical details on all our  
monitors and hoods, please visit:

[www.ColorConfidence.com/monitorshowroom](http://www.ColorConfidence.com/monitorshowroom)